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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
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Fortieth session
2-13 June 1997

DRAFT REPORT ON THE FORTIETH SESSION

Amendments to the parts of the draft report contained in documents A/AC.105/L.214/Add.1-3

Amendments to be made to document A/AC.105/L.214/Add.1

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

1. Insert new paragraph 53*bis*:

53*bis*. The Committee noted that the United States had, in accordance with principle 4 of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, informed the Secretary-General on how States might obtain the results of the environmental assessment in connection with the Cassini spacecraft to be launched in October 1997, which would carry a nuclear power source on board (A/AC.105/677).

Amendments to be made to document A/AC.105/L.214/Add.2

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-sixth session

2. Delete the second sentence of paragraph 11 beginning with "In that regard" and insert the following new sentence:

The view was expressed that if the working paper submitted by Germany was not adopted, resulting in either the conclusion or suspension of the debate on the geostationary orbit, then the matter should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee only if those delegations that wished to continue the discussion on the subject submitted a detailed work plan, laying out specific and achievable objects, as had been done for the item on space debris in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

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3. Insert the following sentence at the end of paragraph 12:

Those delegations expressed the view that further discussions were needed in the Legal Subcommittee on the geostationary orbit issue and that those could proceed on the basis of the working papers contained in A/AC.105/C.2/L.200 and Corr.1 and A/AC.105/C.2/L.205, which were before that Subcommittee.

4. Insert new paragraph 12*bis*:

12*bis*. Following exhaustive informal consultations, the delegation of Germany informed the Committee: (a) that those consultations, although held in a constructive atmosphere, had not resulted in a breakthrough, that would allow the draft resolution to be forwarded for adoption by the General Assembly and subsequently to the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in September and October 1997; (b) that divergencies remained over three issues, namely: (i) the status of the geostationary satellite orbit *vis-à-vis* outer space and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex, of 19 December 1966); (ii) the character of ITU and its relationship with the Committee; and (iii) the future role of the topic of the geostationary orbit on the agendas of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee; and (c) that, as a result, the delegation of Germany had regretfully decided to withdraw its working paper.

D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

5. In paragraph 28, after the words "radiation-induced effects in humans", and before the words "and field applications", insert the following:

"automated robotic gasoline pumps, force reflecting devices to assist the blind in using a computer mouse, nuclear waste facility clean-up"

F. Other matters

6. Insert a new subheading under "F. Other matters" and insert new paragraph 41*bis*, as follows:

5. Possible consideration of new projects in outer space activities

41*bis*. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123, paragraph 39, had requested the Committee to continue its work in accordance with that resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, including the views on which subjects should be studied in the future. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee , beginning with its thirty-fifth session, in 1998, might deliberate upon such projects or programmes which it might consider to be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations so long as it did not interfere with the planning and preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference.

Amendments to be made to document A/AC.105/L.214/Add.3

E. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference

7. Insert new paragraph 15*bis*:

15*bis*. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should take steps to encourage participation by high-level officials, eminent scientists and experts, especially from developing countries, which could benefit from the use of space technology in their economic and social development programmes.

8. Insert new paragraph 15*ter*:

15*ter*. The Committee noted that in his statement, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs had invited Member States, space agencies and relevant national and international organizations to consider supporting the preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference by seconding experts to the Office at the junior or senior expert level, by co-sponsoring workshops related to the additional components of the Conference and through other voluntary contributions.